

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-11 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6800

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USDEL MTN GENEVA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ULUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

UNCLAS PARIS 01133

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, BGEN,FR

SUBJ: PATRONAT ANNUAL MEETING; FRENCH OPINION SURVEY
ON NATIONALIZATION OF INDUSTRY.

1. THE FRENCH PATRONAT (CNPf), WHICH IS ROUGHLY
COMPARABLE TO THE U.S. NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MANU-
FACTURERS, HELD ITS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING JAN 13.
PATRONAT PRESIDENT FRANCOIS CEYRAC WAS ROUTINELY
REELECTED FOR ANOTHER THREE YEAR TERM, DURING WHICH
HE SAID HE WILL PUSH FOR (1) A PERIOD OF RESTRAINT IN
WAGE SETTLEMENTS UNTIL INFLATION IS BROUGHT UNDER
BETTER CONTROL, (2) A RETURN TO A FRENCH ANNUAL GROWTH
RATE OF 5 TO 6 PERCENT STARTING IN 1977, AND (3) THE
STRUCTURAL REFORM OF FRENCH INDUSTRY FROM WITHIN
RATHER THAN BY GOV INTERVENTION, HARASSMENT, AND/OR
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NATIONALIZATION IN ANY FORM.

2. (PATRONAT MEETING COINCIDED WITH MINISTERIAL DISCUSSION AT HOTEL MATIGNON AT WHICH PRIME MINISTER CHIRAC EXPRESSED VIEW THAT 1976 WILL BE A "DIFFICULT YEAR" AND THAT ALTHOUGH GOF HAS CONSCIOUSLY ADOPTED POLICY OF EXPANDED GROWTH THIS MUST BE TEMPERED WITH CONCERN FOR CONTINUED SERIOUEAPROBLEM OF INFLATION. SEE ALSO PARIS 1017 RE FINANCE MINISTER FOURCADE'S POSITION ON THIS PROBLEM.)

3. DURING THE PATRONAT MEETING, A PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY WAS CIRCULATED SHOWING THAT A REPRESENTATIVE SAMPLE OF 800 FRENCHMEN ANSWERED AS FOLLOWS TO QUESTIONS ON THE DESIRABILITY OF FURTHER NATIONALIZATION OF FRENCH PRIVATE ENTERPRISE (ALL FIGURES IN PERCENT):

QUESTION 1: WOULD INDUSTRIES PERFORM BETTER OR WORSE IF NATIONALIZED. ANSWER: BETTER - 18, WORSE - 48, SAME - 27.

QUESTION 2: WOULD WAGES RISE ? ANSWERS: NO - 33, YES - 21.

QUESTION 3: WOULD NATIONALIZED INDUSTRIES GROW FASTER: NO - 41, YES - 19.

QUESTION 4: WOULD THERE BE MORE JOB SECURITY? ANSWERS: NO - 19, YES - 44.

QUESTION 5: SHOULD CREATION OF NEW PRIVATE ENTERPRISES BE ENCOURAGED: ANSWERS: YES - 75, NO OR UNDECIDED - 25.

4. COMMENT: SURVEY RESULTS SHOULD STRENGTHEN PATRONAT LEADERSHIP IN ITS CONTENTION THAT FURTHER MOVES BY GISCARD TO GAIN VOTES FROM THE LEFT BY BASHING PRIVATE BUSINESS WOULD BE POLITICALLY COUNTERPRODUCTIVE.
RUSH

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